

## 28 JUN 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR: Acting Deputy Director for Administration

FROM

F. W. M. Janney

Director of Personnel

SUBJECT

The Agency's Medical Program for Employees

and Dependents Abroad

REFERENCE

Memorandum for Deputy Director for Administration

from Inspector General, same subject, dated

7 June 1978

1. This is the only case of which we are aware in which an Agency employee has requested reimbursement under this Program for doctor appointments which were not kept. The problem here is that the Program pays for the cost of treatment and in this instance there was no treatment received. In order to preclude any possibility of misunderstanding on this matter in the future, we will include in the current revision of a specific statement that the Program will not reimburse for medical appointments which the patient does not keep.

2. We believe that the change in the handbooks will be sufficient action to resolve this problem and do not plan to require a statement of understanding from each employee.

(Signed) F. W. M. Janney

F. W. M. Janney

Unclassified when separated from Confidential attachment.

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Administration

FROM

: John H. Waller Inspector General

SUBJECT

: The Agency's Medical Program for Employees and

Dependents Abroad

1. This memorandum contains suggestions for amending
"Federal Employees' Compensation Act and the Agency's
Medical Program for Employees and Dependents Abroad."

- 2. A grievant, who had been receiving benefits under the above Program, recently told us of her misunderstanding concerning the responsibility for the payment of doctors' fees for appointments which she had canceled. The policy of the Personal Affairs Branch (PAB) is that the employee/patient must pay for services billed but not rendered by the physician. However, our grievant claimed that she had not been briefed on this policy. As a result, she had submitted to PAB bills for canceled appointments along with bills for those appointments she kept. By a coincidence, PAB became aware that it had already paid for one such canceled appointment. This instance raises the possibility that, unknowingly, PAB has been paying physicians' bills for other patients who have missed appointments.
- 3. In order to avoid further possible confusion about who pays for appointments which the patient cancels, we suggest that you consider amending the regulations covering the Program to include the specific statement that the Agency will not pay for medical appointments which the patient does not keep. We also suggest that, before treatment is begun, PAB require each Agency employee who intends to submit bills under the Program to read and sign a statement outlining PAB's policy of paying only for services rendered. The statement could include the information that it is the patient's responsibility to find out his or her physician's policy regarding the billing for missed appointments and that it is the liability of the patient to pay for any charges made for missed appointments.

John H. Waller

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